"I am pleased that the California State University, Fresno Foundation will receive funding to create more jobs and opportunity for Valley residents. These funds will go towards educating business owners and organizations on strategies to thrive and expand in today's challenging economy. I look forward to seeing the results of this funding as I continue working with everyone in the Valley to get our economy back on track and protect our way of life."

The funds, made possible through the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), invest in updating the Regional Jobs Initiative Transition Plan focused on Fresno and the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The California State University at Fresno will focus applied research on economic cluster development and providing businesses and public organizations with information essential to business development and job creation.

In addition, this EDA investment grants the CSU, Fresno Foundation the opportunity to expand outreach assistance to rural areas. The funding also allows the foundation to develop a master plan for higher education in the region, including Kings County.